



the gay weekly

35c

Vol. 4, No. 14

October 2, 1976



**Saxe Jury
Picked,
p.3**

**Mr. Club
Baths
Chosen**

**Arthur Bell
of the Village Voice, p.8**

gay community news

Vol. 4, No. 14

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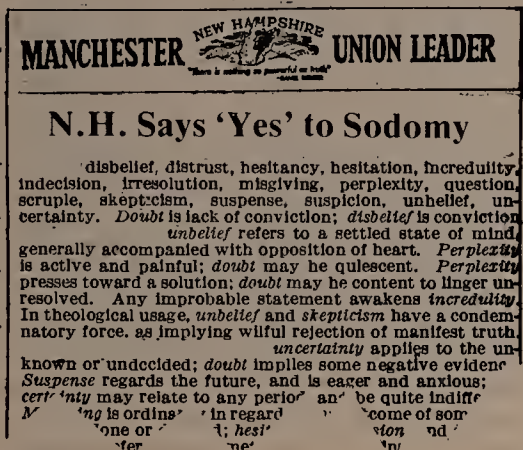
October 2, 1976

Code Revision Took Place a Year Ago

New Hampshire Appears to Repeal Its Sex Laws

CONCORD, NH — In a development that has left many gay activists stunned and incredulous, the state of New Hampshire appears to have repealed its sodomy laws. The repeal took place, virtually unnoticed, in a revision of the rape section of the state's penal code that was done over a year ago. The package revision went into effect on Aug. 6, 1975, and was enacted on June 7, 1975. Although GCN is presently awaiting confirmation of the sodomy law repeal from the Attorney General's office in Concord, New Hampshire appears to have become the 18th state to make sex acts between consenting adults legal.

The apparent development is of special interest because the state's governor, Meldrim Thomson Jr., has been one of the nation's most virulently anti-gay public officials. Gov. Thomson fought a court battle to



A headline that never happened.

bar the Gay Students Association from functioning on the campus of the University of New Hampshire. Thomson is also a close associate of *Manchester Union Leader* publisher

William Loeb, whose anti-gay editorials and articles in the state's largest and most influential newspaper have made him well-known in New England's gay community.

The repeal was "discovered" by Washington gay activist Franklin E. Kameny who, by chance, noticed an article in a legal magazine that New Hampshire had revised its criminal code. Kameny followed this up through a series of letters and telephone calls to officials in Concord. "How many others are there?" Kameny asked. "We didn't learn of the New Hampshire repeal until a full year — more, in fact — after its occurrence; how many more such repeals are there, and when did they take place?" Kameny proposed that someone with the time and money undertake an examination of all the criminal codes of all the states of the union.

A revised criminal code was first enacted by the New Hampshire Legislature on July 7, 1971, effective Nov. 1, 1973. This revision retained the state's laws against "deviate sexual acts" but lowered the penalty for violation from a felony to a misdemeanor. The anti-sodomy law was included in a broader section dealing primarily with rape, but also including some other sexual offenses.

Enacted July 7, 1975, the entire rape section (Chapter 632) with all its subsections, including the sodomy laws (Section 632:2:11 *Deviate Sexual Relations*) was repealed, as a unit, and a revised Rape Section (*Sexual Assault and Related Offenses*) was enacted in its place. This new section included no provision for private, consensual sexual acts. The new law repeal also lowered the age of consent from 17 to 16.

Off-the-Wall Drops Films, Gets License Back

By Neil Miller

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Cambridge's Off the Wall Coffeehouse re-opened Friday, ten days after the city's Licensing Commission had revoked alternative coffeehouse-cum-theatre's license to show films. After a sometimes stormy meeting between the Coffeehouse's lawyer, Cambridge City

"We capitulated," Eric Blumenson, Off the Wall lawyer told GCN. "We just didn't have the money to fight them. We won on the license issue but they won on the censorship issue."

Off the Wall had previously planned to go into Federal District Court to sue the License Commission. The coffeehouse intended to challenge the Licensing Board on the issues of censorship, lack of standards for revocation, and lack of hearing before the revocation of the license.

John Sennott, chairperson of the Cambridge Licensing Commission, had claimed throughout the dispute that censorship was not an issue. Sennott even went so far as to rescind Off the Wall's license as part of a general policy that would "rescind all licenses to any establishment that is not engaged solely in the business of a movie theatre with all the requirements thereof — e.g. row seats, proper lighting, toilet facilities, etc." Lawyer Blumenson noted that such a policy was unworkable because it would rule out film series at Harvard and MIT as well as the Harvard Epworth Church.

License Commission chairperson Sennott denied that the restoration of Off the Wall's license had brought about a quick end to the "theatres only" policy. "Each case will be treated on an individual basis," he told GCN.

Off the Wall co-owner and manager Larry Silverman told GCN that "the deal that was worked out proves that the issue was censorship all the while, no matter what they said. It shows how a little place can be pushed around." Lawyer Blumenson agrees. "It was clearly a question of censorship," he said.

Armed with its license to show

"short cartoon-type features," Off the Wall reopened, after ten days in the dark, with a series called "The Best of Off the Wall." The coffeehouse was assured that the establishment would receive a more expanded license in the near future and that there would be no harassment for improper license in the meantime, provided that "'Heart Throb-type'" movies were not shown.

Ford to Review Immigration Policy

ANN ARBOR, MI — President Gerald R. Ford has promised to review the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) policy on the immigration of gay aliens to the United States. Answering a question from Dan Tsang, writer for *Gay Space*, a Michigan gay newspaper, President Ford stated, "I was not familiar with the fact that it [homosexuality] is the basis for exclusion. I was not familiar with that as hindrance to a person coming into the United States. I think that is a matter that ought to be looked at and I will have my people do so."

Only a month ago, the INS reversed its policy and decided that homosexuality in itself is not grounds for barring a person from being a naturalized U.S. citizen. However, the INS has not acted on its policy of barring gays from immigrating to the U.S. Gays desiring to immigrate to the

U.S. or to visit as tourists are presently barred on the basis of "psychopathic personality."

In response to a question on his position on the National Gay Rights Bill, Ford stated that it would be "unwise" and "irresponsible" for him to "commit myself to any statement I haven't seen or read." The President noted that homosexuality was a "problem." However, he added "I'm not going to categorize groups unfairly. I try to be very judicious and very unprejudiced in my attitude."

The President's refusal to take a stand on the Gay Rights Bill parallels his position on the bill which he took recently at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. His promise to investigate the immigration situation is the first publicly supportive statement which the President has made on gay rights.

Chicago Marriage Activists Transferred

CHICAGO, IL — Gay marriage activists, Nancy Davis and Toby Schneider, recently sentenced to a year in prison for a sit-in at the County Clerk's office in Chicago, have been transferred to the women's penitentiary at Dwight, Illinois. Chicago gay circles continue to express outrage over the extremely stiff sentences which the two women received for the "criminal trespass" when they refused to leave the county clerk's office after being denied a marriage license. Their sit-in prevented the closing of the office.

One Chicago source told GCN that the severity of the sentence could be laid to "political pressure put on the judge" — Judge Rudolph L. Janega.

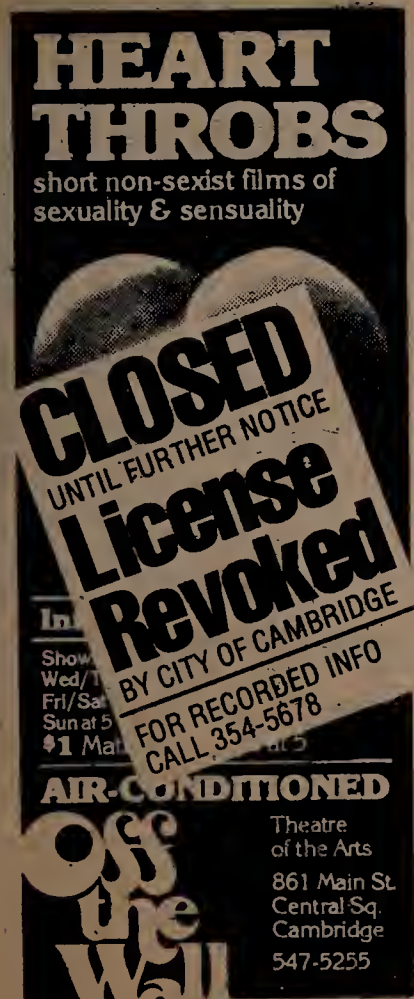
Such pressure, according to the source, probably came from the office of County Clerk Stanley Cusper.

The nature of the two women's politics has caused a reluctance in the Chicago community to support them. Many of Chicago's gays see the two women as "too radical." "They don't care who they offend," one gay activist told GCN. The two women are the authors of the book *Heterosexual*, and define themselves as "communist socialists." However, the Gay Rights Action Coalition (GRAC), an organization in which Davis and Schneider played an active role, is supporting them and has been trying to get the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Chicago

to do the same. GRAC has also been working on another gay marriage attempt involving two men, Jeff Graubart and Reid Smith.

Reluctance to support the two women also stems from the fact that one of them — Toby Schneider — is already legally married to a man and has made no effort to get divorced.

The two women have already spent 140 days in prison for other marriage sit-in attempts for which they were given thirty days each. Anyone interested in writing in support of Davis and Schneider can write them at Box Z, Dwight, Illinois 60420. Davis' prison number is C67548 while Schneider's is C67547.



Manager John Sullivan, and the city solicitor, on Monday, Sept. 20, the City of Cambridge agreed to rescind the license revocation. However it was only a partial victory for Off the Wall. In gaining its license back, the coffeehouse agreed not to show the film series, "Heart Throbs," the series that had caused the furor that had led to the revocation. "Heart Throbs" contained two "sexually explicit" short films depicting gay sexuality — "Holding" and "Stamen" — and these films earned the particular ire of a plain-clothes policeman who saw a preview of the show.



news notes

BOSTON'S FBI SPY

BOSTON — First confirmation of FBI surveillance of the Boston gay movement was reported in an article by Danny Scheeter, WBCN-FM News Director, in an article in the alternative weekly, *The Real Paper*, in the Sept. 25 issue. In an article called "It Was My Agent Calling," a young FBI informant named Yule Mahoney, admitted to Scheeter that he listened to WBCN's now defunct show "Lavender Hour" to keep tabs on the gay movement.

"Most intelligence agencies rely on overt, publicly available information for at least 80 percent of their intelligence product," Scheeter writes. "Mahoney did the same . . . He also listened to WBCN news . . . John Scagliotti's 'Lavender Hour' was a great source on the gay liberation movement."

Mahoney told Scheeter that he had spied on more than 33 New England area organizations, informing on or identifying at least 900 persons since 1971. Although no gay organization was named on Mahoney's list of groups he had spied on, he admitted to collecting information on the Cambridge Women's Center, Bread and Roses, the July 4th Coalition, and the Women's Law Commune as well as the usual potpourri of leftist and anti-war organizations. Mahoney claims that he was only one of ten such informants in the Boston area.

'TIP' SLIPS

CAMBRIDGE, MA — US Rep. Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, heir apparent to the post of Speaker of the US House of Representatives, is leaving his gay constituents with questions concerning his position on gay rights. O'Neill represents one of the largest concentrations of gay people on the East Coast, a congressional district that includes all of Cambridge, Somerville, Back Bay-Beacon Hill of Boston, and Allston-Brighton.

In identical letters last year to Rep. Elaine Noble and GCN political writer David Brill, O'Neill stated, "It is always my policy to support legislation favorably reported by standing committees of the House," indicating that he could support the bill.

However, on two separate occasions during the past month in Cambridge, O'Neill told two of his gay constituents that he was opposed to the bill. Bill Weintraub, a member of the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, told GCN that O'Neill had told him that he is personally opposed to homosexual liberalizing legislation. Weintraub stated that O'Neill had told him that he was far more interested in the economic state of the nation than in the gay rights bill. According to Weintraub, O'Neill said that he didn't believe that any proposed federal gay rights legislation would emerge from committee, but if it does, he would oppose it.

When contacted by GCN in an attempt to clear up the apparent discrepancy, O'Neill's press secretary stated, "It [the bill] won't pass this year." When further pressed on the issue, the secretary said, "He [O'Neill] hasn't looked at the bill."

CUBAN SWITCH?

ATLANTA, GA — The Cuban government's anti-gay policies may be undergoing a change. The *ALFA Newsletter*, a publication of the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist community, reports that a Cuban-American woman, who had spent seven months in Cuba, indicated a softening of the socialist republic's policies.

According to *ALFA*, the woman told the following story during a question-and-answer period after a speech on Cuba. "In 1971 the Vice-Minister of Culture and Education gave a speech in effect-equating homosexuality with bourgeois decadence and forbidding gay people from jobs teaching children and jobs in cultural and artistic fields. Two years ago approximately 50 gay men and women in Havana were fired from their jobs, all of whom were homosexual. All got lawyers who took the cases before peoples' courts. The decisions were that people could not be fired from their jobs only for being homosexual. As a result, not only were all 50 reinstated, but the people who fired them lost their jobs."



Singer Holly Near

HOLLY AND ELTON

MT. PLEASANT, MI — "It's finally happened, and I know a lot of you have been waiting for it a long time," Holly Near, popular singer and women's and anti-war activist, told a crowd at the Women's Music Festival at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, last month. With these words, Near revealed that she was now involved in a lesbian relationship. Rumors had been abounding that Near was involved with singer Meg Christian.

Meanwhile, rock performer Elton John told an interviewer in a *Rolling Stone* interview that he was "bisexual." "I see nothing wrong with going to bed with someone of the same sex," said that English rock star. However, John did add that he would prefer to settle down with a woman because heterosexual relationships tend, in his view, to last longer than same-sex relationships.

GAY BUSINESS

BOSTON — The place of the Sept. 27 meeting of the Gay Business Association has been changed to the Napoleon Club, 52 Piedmont St., Boston. The meeting will take place at 8 p.m.

ABZUG'S SUCCESSOR

NEW YORK — City Councilperson Theodore Weiss, Democratic nominee for the seat in the US House of Representatives vacated by Rep. Bella Abzug when she ran unsuccessfully for the Senate, is under pressure to step aside. Lieut. Governor Mary Anne Krupsak reportedly telephoned Weiss to persuade him to withdraw from the race to permit Abzug to run again. Weiss refused. "She suggested that I simply step aside, Weiss told the *New York Times*. "She said people all over the country are upset that Bella is not going to be in Washington and they will hold the male-dominated Democratic Party responsible."

Krupsak reported that she told Weiss that "there was growing concern that women, minorities, the liberal wing might stay home in November because of what happened to Bella. I told him, 'If there's any way you could see your way clear to step aside.'" Weiss also said that he had been asked about the rumor that he might quit the race from Governor Carey, former New York Mayor Robert Wagner, and Deputy Mayor Stanley M. Friedman.

COMMIE CHATTER

SAN FRANCISCO — Communist Party USA Presidential candidate Gus Hall has been quoted in San Francisco's *BAR* as making a more supportive statement on gay rights than his running-mate Jarvis Tyner made recently in GCN. According to long-time party stalwart Hall, "We are, on a principal basis, against discrimination against gay people, whether it's in jobs and professions and so on — and so, we have a very fundamental position. We disagree, I think, in the sense that the gay movement tends to say that this problem and this movement is on an equal basis with the struggle against racism, or the class struggle and so on . . . and, of course, it's *not*; and it's really counter-productive to raise it that way. I think the gay movement will do best when it participates in the struggle generally on a class basis; the struggle against racism and so on."

Hall's primary differentiation between the gay struggle and the struggles of other peoples is that he does not see gay oppression as a question of "class exploitation." "It [gay oppression] is not the same as the question of racism, which is an instrument of class exploitation; therefore an instrument of profit. The discrimination against gay people is not on the same level . . ."

HAPPY HOMOSEXUALS

NEW YORK — A *Psychology Today* poll of 52,000 of its readers has revealed that "Happiness is not a matter of sexual preference." Homosexuals in the sample, which appeared in the magazine's August issue, "are neither more nor less happy than heterosexuals." On almost every question of the survey, gay people are no different from straights, the magazine asserts. "The only differences follow from respective lifestyles — homosexuals have more sexual partners, and consider marriage and children unimportant."

CARSWELL MURDER LINK?

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The *New York Times* reports that the FBI apparently failed to pass on to the Nixon administration information concerning a possible link between the G. Harrold Carswell family and the murder of a gay high school teacher. The teacher, John Pack, was found dead two weeks after the nomination of Carswell to the US Supreme Court was announced by Nixon. Carswell's nomination was later rejected by the US Senate in a close vote. Carswell was indicted in June of this year on a charge of having made homosexual advances to a police officer in the men's room of a shopping mall in Tallahassee, Florida.

According to the *Times*, the FBI file on Judge Carswell revealed that teacher Pack's body was found in his Tallahassee apartment by sheriff's deputies. Pack had been shot three times with a .45 caliber pistol. Among the items found there was a photograph of the teacher taken in front of a North Tallahassee house that he had rented the previous summer. The house was next door to the residence of the Carswell family.

The FBI told the *Times* that a week after the murder, officials in the sheriff's department discovered that a watch, apparently stolen from the school teacher's body by the person who killed him, had been obtained for the teacher by Carswell's son Scott. The younger Carswell had been a student at the high school where Pack taught.

Carswell's attorney declined comment on whether the former judge had ever known Pack as well as any aspect of the story.

RADICAL WOMEN

SEATTLE, WA — "A New Era for Women Workers, Minority Women, and Lesbians" is the theme of the 1976 Annual Radical Women Conference to be held on the University of Washington campus on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 9 and 10. The major presentations and topics of discussion during the two day event will be "Women in the Labor Movement," "Feminism and the Minority Woman," and "Gays and the Class Struggle."

Registration will begin at 9:00 Saturday morning and can be made in advance. Participants may register for specific sessions or for the entire conference. For further information and fee schedules call (206) 632-1815 or (206) 789-1220; or write to Radical Women, 3815 5th Ave., N.E., Seattle, Washington 98105.

BACKING THE ERA

BOSTON — A statewide educational and activist conference on the Massachusetts Equal Rights Amendment will be held the weekend of Oct. 1 and 2 at Boston University. The state Equal Rights Amendment will be on the ballot in Massachusetts in the November election as question #1. The conference will begin with a rally on Friday evening at BU's Hayden Hall. Rep. Elaine Noble of Boston, Brenda Eickelberger of the National Alliance of Black Feminists, Joan Buckley of the Boston Teachers Union, Diane Gallagher, co-host of *Women '76*, and others will speak. Saturday will feature a series of workshops on ERA-related issues, including one workshop given entirely in Spanish. The workshops will focus on Black Women and the ERA, how the ERA affects working women, why the ERA was defeated in New York and New Jersey, and other subjects. The Saturday workshops will begin at 10 a.m. at the CIA Building.

Byrna Aronson Subpoenaed, Barred from Trial

9 Men, 7 Women to Decide Susan Saxe's Fate

By Nancy Wechsler

BOSTON — After a week of deliberation, a predominantly young jury of nine men and seven women have been chosen to hear testimony in the case of Susan Saxe. Saxe is on trial on charges of bank robbery and felony murder, growing out of the 1970 robbery of the State Street Bank and Trust Company in Brighton, Mass., in which a policeman was killed. Three of the jurors are black. Only 12 out of the 16 will actually bring in a verdict; the other four are alternates.

The 16 jurors chosen are: Ann Marie Duquette, 29, Dorchester, who works at home; Jean Sullivan, 21, Mattapan, a secretary; David Carr, 23, Charlestown, a tow truck driver; Leila Robbins, 47, Dorchester, an unemployed adult education instructor; Lorraine Powell, 24, South End, an insurance adjuster trainee; Dennis Milford, 35, Beacon Hill, a computer analyst; Michael Arcangeli, 27, Mattapan, medical research technician; James Lanzillo, 19, Chelsea, janitor; Robert Flynn, 19, Dorchester, assistant bookkeeper; Kliaudas Sakenis, 49, Dorchester, electro mechanical designer; Kathleen St. Clair, 22, Dorchester, nurses' aide; Wullie Johnson, 30, Mattapan, punch press operator; Debra Fuller, 23, South End, a salesperson; Steven Ivers, 26, Jamaica Plain, a cab driver; Mark Sutherland, 22, Dorchester, a bank teller; Cathleen O'Connell, 29, Jamaica Plain, legal secretary. Dennis Milford was picked by Judge McLaughlin to be the foreman of the jury.

The National Jury Project assisted the defense in the jury selection process. The Jury Project is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose "is to help overcome some of the bias inherent in our criminal justice system, and particularly in our jury system." At a press conference on the morning the actual trial was to begin the



Supporters of Susan Saxe demonstrate in front of Government Center, after being ejected from the front of the Suffolk County Courthouse. At right is Terri Turgeon, grand jury resister.

Photo by Marie Favorito

members of Jury Project commented on the jury that was chosen and the selection process. When asked if they thought the jury was fair they replied, "We don't know. There are indications that some of these people may in fact believe she [Susan] is guilty. It is impossible for someone to be exposed to five years of continuous publicity and not be prejudiced. We tried to eliminate the people who were the most biased. The people who we were left with we don't know much about. We feel like we've been straightjacketed here in Massachusetts by the *voir dire*."

In Massachusetts the judge, and not the attorneys, questions the jurors. Most states allow the attorneys themselves to question the jurors extensively.

Judge McLaughlin asked each juror a series of questions, getting a string of yes-no responses. He asked questions such as Do you have an opinion in this

case? Have you discussed this case with any persons including the jurors upstairs? Would you give more weight to the testimony of a policeman than you would to an ordinary citizen? Are you a member of an organization commonly associated with the women's liberation movement? Is there anything in your background that would make you prejudiced in favor of or against a woman who is on trial and is defended principally by women? No specific questions were asked about a juror's prejudice toward lesbians, though one juror who was aware that Susan was a lesbian admitted that he had such a prejudice. He was excused by the judge.

On occasion, Judge McLaughlin allowed Saxe's lawyer, Nancy Gertner, to question jurors directly. This is the first time in Massachusetts that this has been allowed. It is common practice in other states. Margaret McQuade, a

prospective juror, had told the judge that she held no opinion as to Saxe's guilt or innocence, and was not prejudiced. However, on direct questioning, she told Gertner, "We all know what she did — she robbed a bank and a policeman was shot." The judge then dismissed McQuade, though he did not give Gertner the right to continue asking questions of the rest of the jurors.

The actual trial has now begun and is expected to last anywhere from four to six weeks. A group of about 25 supporters picketed in front of the courthouse chanting "Free Susan Saxe," Thursday, Sept. 23, the first day of the trial. In court, the judge once again denied a defense motion to dismiss the charges because of the pre-trial publicity. Eighty-nine per cent of the jurors called to the stand admitted that they were prejudiced. McLaughlin also upheld a prosecution request to sequester all witnesses subpoenaed to testify during the trial. (This means they will not be allowed in the courtroom during the trial and will be prevented from hearing the testimony of other witnesses.)

The prosecution has subpoenaed Byrna Aronson, Saxe's lover and a member of her legal team since her arrest in Philadelphia. The defense attempted to get the judge to allow Aronson in the courtroom during the trial, but this attempt was denied. Aronson has said she will refuse to testify if called to the stand. The barring of Aronson from the courtroom is seen by some supporters as "yet another part of the prosecution's game of psychological warfare against Susan and continuing attempts to disrupt the work and functioning of the defense's legal team." After the motions were denied by the judge, the jury was taken on a tour of two Beacon Street apartments and the Brighton branch of the State Street Bank.

Mr. Club Baths Contest Draws 400 to 'Together'

BOSTON — Art Karapolis was named Mr. Club Boston and Stanley Smart was named Mr. Club Hartford at the Club Baths' Beauty Contest held at the Boston bar, Together, on Thursday, Sept. 16. The contest, a benefit for GCN, Inc., parent corporation of *Gay Community News*, was attended by more than 400 people and was one of twenty such contests which the Club Bath Chain has held throughout the country since April. The Washington, Philadelphia, and Boston contests were all benefits for the local gay press. Winners Karapolis and Smart will take part in the International Club Contest to be held in Chicago at Thanksgiving. All the contestants — winners of local contests — will be flown to Chicago at the expense of the Club Baths. Winners of the final contest will win a substantial amount of money plus a modeling contract. The Boston winner won \$125 from the Club Baths and \$125 from Together.

There were eleven contestants at the Boston contest, all of them approximately between 20 and 28 years of age. The contestants paraded about in street clothes and bathing suits, told about their interests and generally attempted to impress the judges with their physique, good looks, and stage presence. Female impersonator Tiffany Jones did a series of impersonations, including one of a nun on roller skates.

Judges of the contest included John Paul Hudson, author of "Superstar Murder!"; Jack Campbell, president and founder of the Club Baths Chain;

John Lewis, general manager of the Northeast Region of the Club Baths; Jerry Bartel, manager of the Bayou Landing, Cleveland; Joe Beckmann and Ann Johnston from GCN Inc., board members.

George Ames, manager of the Club Baths of Boston, called the contest a "boffo success." "Of the three contests I did — Washington, Philadelphia, and Boston — this one was the best. Only Houston was more successful. Before the contest the feeling was relatively negative. After the contest, we felt it was incredibly successful."

Judge John Paul Hudson took a somewhat jaundiced but no less positive view of the contest. "I used to be opposed to these male beauty contests for all the standard reasons," Hudson told GCN. "Then it dawned on me that, if a fellow wants to spend his life developing his body to show off, then let *that* choice be the criteria for the judging. I favor the contestant with the most artificially-developed body, the one who has worked to build up his muscles to the most grotesque point. He needn't be the most attractive, the most personable, or have any talent. I just give him the 'A' for effort."

However, one contestant disagreed. "Big bodies like those in *Pumping Iron* aren't what guys want any more. They try to be slim and more natural in their body-building."

Winners Karapolis and Smart, not obvious weight-lifter types, seemed to support the contestant's observations.



Local beauties parade at the Club Baths Contest in Boston.

[Photo by Ray Hopkins]

COMMUNITY VOICE



GCN welcomes letters expressing the views of its readers. All letters submitted for publication must contain the name and address of the writer. A phone number will speed verification. While names will be withheld upon request, no anonymous letters will be considered.

angry at billy joe

To the editor:

It has been sometime since I've read something in a Gay Paper that has appalled me as much as Thom Willenbecher's review of 'Ode to Billy Joe'. At first I was going to let it rest — assuming that Mr. W would read and thoroughly digest Gary Hoisington's more liberated viewpoint (and he didn't even see the crummy movie), but I simply cannot let this go by without protest.

This is not meant to be merely a personal attack on Mr. W, since I've never met the man nor am I familiar with his writing. If anything, this is an attack on the kind of oppressed thinking that leads to the attitude offered by Mr. W in his review. First of all, I find it hard to consider him a qualified movie critic if he finds the sophomoric, badly written 'Ode to Billy Joe' to be a 'complex and highly sensitive film' or a 'persuasive statement' of anything (but mindless homophobia). But even worse — the man has not developed any gay consciousness at all! 'The issue of homosexuality is carefully and sensitively handled'? No! It doesn't matter that the film was set in 1953 when times were slightly more oppressive — the fact remains that the film's 1976 attitude towards gays is negligent, irresponsibly dated and ridiculously phony. Is Herman Raucher (the screenauthor) so mentally deficient that he couldn't come up with a different explanation for Billy Joe's demise? Think how adolescent gays watching this cruddy movie are going to feel. Like coming out of their closets? Hardly.

I could rip Mr. W's article apart line by line, but I'll settle for commenting on the following choice bits: 'We do not get the impression that Billy Joe killed himself because he was just another guilt-ridden homosexual unable to come to grips with his identity.' (Oh, we don't?) 'it only happened once — he did not appear to be interested in the man.' Come on, Willenbecher — our initial homosexual experiences often occur with someone we wouldn't dream of going to bed with if we had a better choice at that moment. '... entire drama is shaped by his sexual interest in Bobby Lee — an interest which flags only at the last crucial moment.' Billy Joe was 'interested' in Bobbie Lee the way all young faggots are interested in hiding from themselves their true orientation. (Some hide it quite successfully for years.) '... of his inability to reaffirm his masculine identity.' Will someone please take Mr. W by the hand, sit him down and tell him that 'Ode' is atrocious because it does not tell gay men and women that celebrating their sexuality will not cause a loss of (masculine, feminine) identity? If that doesn't work I suggest the powers-that-be at GCN pack him and his movie reviews up and send him back home to the closet where he belongs. Keeping in mind that even regular newspapers laughingly commented on

the film's passe script — and that many angry gays would like to ban the damn flick — Mr. Willenbecher's review becomes even more embarrassing.

Billy Schoell, New York

tired attire

Dear GCN Editor:

In confection with "Sporters" dress code, let's be rational and calm. Why have traffic lights?

People can wear panties or go nude in their home. In church or synagogue, proper attire is expected and is observed.

Likewise, in public restaurants and bars, a reasonable attire is asked of customers. The bar manager and help strive to maintain quality service and harmonious atmosphere. Some attire is associated with disorderly behavior and provokes discord and argument.

You go to a public bar or restaurant to relax and escape problems and not to encounter confrontations. A person's desire for absolute freedom of attire should not overturn the majority of other customers' desire for peace and tranquility in a public bar.

Discrimination based on sex and race against an individual should not be compared to and confused with type of clothing worn in public.

P. J. Martin,
Boston

no to carter

Dear GCN:

I have today resigned my position as member of the Executive Board of Gays for Carter! as well as my membership in the organization in general. As I am listed as a member of said Executive Board in the Sept. 4, 1976 issue of your newspaper, I would appreciate your printing the fact of my resignation in the pages of your newspaper as immediately as possible. Furthermore, I am in the above-mentioned article identified as the editor of the National Gay Task Force Action Report and as a committee chairperson of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah. Such identification was to be for purposes of identification only and include such a disclaimer. In no way was the usage of those titles to be permitted without such a disclaimer (Robert Rygor was aware of this), nor should it be inferred that either or both organizations supports the election of Mr. Carter or any other candidate. Indeed, as a tax-exempt organization, Congregation Beth Simchat Torah does not support political candidates..

Sincerely,

Barrett L. Brick

carter's burden

Dear GCN:

Once scorched by the Carter leadership, I wish to exercise my right to refuse to be twice born.

The establishment of a group within this community known as Gays for Carter! may serve to be the most significant lesson this political neophyte could learn. On one hand it represents gay Americans making themselves visible through political choice. On the other hand, it demonstrates that some members of this community are not willing to take their interests and needs any more seriously than do the rank and file politicians.

I make this statement based on my experience lobbying members of the Platform Committee, and Carter's chief issues personnel, Stuart Eizenstat and Joe Duffy, on behalf of the inclusion of a gay rights plank. The contacts with key platform committee members were sustained over a period of time that was roughly three months in duration. Key members of the Drafting Subcommittee were also lobbied by gays from local constituencies. The effort to communicate the depth and scope of gay oppression represented testimony which Michael Barnes, Staff Director of the Platform Committee, called "excellent." No member of the committee could claim ignorance of the facts, and few argued the reality of our oppression.

The refusal to include any reference to gay rights was stated most directly to me by Joe Duffy: "Your issue is not a priority." Stuart Eizenstat's statement provided me with the benefit of his empathic understanding of our plight: "I do not wish to encumber this candidate with such a controversial issue." In neither instance did an attempt to translate "issue" into the daily lives of twenty million Americans have any impact.

Are we, as a community, to believe that a candidate who sees us as a political burden today will tomorrow see himself as our liberator? Are we, as a community constantly being called upon to contribute valuable time and limited resources, going to permit the Gays for Carter! contingent to siphon off those resources?

It is not my intent to encourage members of this community to vote for either candidate, nor do I advocate not voting. It is my concern that we are not seen as a minority upon whom politicians can presume no matter how shabbily we are treated. It is my concern that we sharpen our understanding of the function and conditions under which we form coalitions.

I don't care if the vast majority of gay women and men examine the issues and ultimately cast their vote for Mr. Carter; I do care that an organization such as Gays for Carter! create the illusion that we can be effectively disenfranchised in June, and signed, sealed and delivered in August.

Sincerely,

Ginny Apuzzo

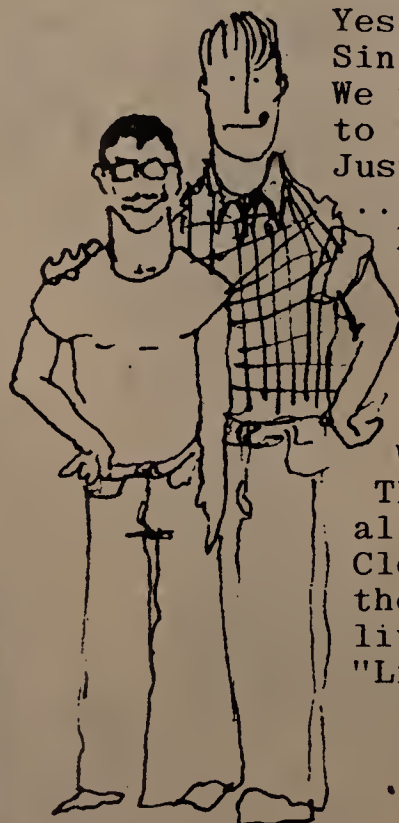
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all that political stuff...
Close the churches and grab
the kids...We're quiet, just
live quietly; you know,
"Live and let..." Yeah....

Stream

who's on first?

Dear Editor:
This is in response to the article (GCN, Sept. 18, 1976) by Robert Chesley in which he writes of the *first* weekly gay television show. Well, as the song says, it isn't necessarily so.

The first gay television programming in a regular weekly format was produced by New York's Gay Activist Alliance. It was hosted by Joe Kennedy and was in its heyday before the demise of the Wooster Street firehouse. It was aimed at both men and women. The *first* videotapes for television aimed at a gay male audience was the program *Homosexual Renaissance* which was a blend of ideology, news and entertainment. Finally there was a program for gay

women called Lesbian Family Hour.
All of these shows are now defunct and there have been no television programs by and for gays in New York for more than a year, and all were shown over channels C and D. Inasmuch as the new program will be on channel J it may be first on that channel but it is not "the world's first weekly gay television show."

On behalf of those involved in the earlier era of videotaping, I want to wish the producers of Emerald City all the best with their project. Television is one of the most important communication mediums and it can and should be available for gays.

Cordially,
Walter J. Phillips
37 Spruce Ave.
Ridgefield Park, N.J. 07660

born again

Dear GCN:
After reading the Sept. 18 issue of GCN, I must confess that the Lavender Thumb article left me a little stunned. The writer assumes that to be a born-again Christian you have to either condemn homosexuality or never practice it if you are gay. This assumption is one that some straights would perpetuate as fact. Yet the truth is that salvation is for everyone: gay, straight, or any orientation. What does the writer of Lavender Thumb think MCC is all about?

The Metropolitan Community Church is not just a bunch of gays playing church. It is a dynamic, Spirit-filled Evangelical church which does not discriminate or make the Gospel

contingent upon sexual orientation. It is a Christian church whose function is to bring people to a working, personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Lives are changed, hearts are touched, and salvation is secured for all those who commit their lives to Jesus.

God knows already where we are at sexually and accepts us fully as children. So, to suppose that a born-again Christian must be miserably lonely if gay is not only an inaccurate stereotype, but completely contradictory to those of us who have found inner peace, love, joy, and friendship, through and with Jesus and are still GAY.

Sincerely:

Pat Kader,
Pittsburgh

SPEAKING OUT!

Readers may use this column to express their points of view. Typewritten material should be submitted to SPEAKING OUT, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108. The views expressed in SPEAKING OUT are not necessarily the views of GCN and are entirely the views of the writer.



By Scott Alpert

The Women's Movement has taught that the use of the word Ms. is preferable to the use of Miss and Mrs. Miss and Mrs. are heterosexist words of address that bespeak a person's gender and marital status, while the word Mr. describes a person by gender only. Women have contended that such disparate addresses are discriminatory and oppressive to them.

And they are right. But beyond being oppressive to women, they are oppressive to all persons, because implicit in their use is the belief that sexuality is of prime importance; a person's personhood, secondary or even third, after race.

If the objective of being word-conscious is to liberate humankind from the pervasive discrimination based, in part, on prior knowledge of often immaterial data — sex, sexual preference, race, ethnic origin, beliefs, then a new, more stringent approach is indicated.

Wouldn't it be easier to begin with the *most* democratizing concepts and work *deductively*? To liberate, when writing or speaking of a person where sexual, racial or other characterizations are not critical to understanding, it is essential that they not be used. In that sense, the terms Mr. and Ms. are oppressive because they categorize sexually where such categories are not warranted, thus are democratizers.

News anchorwoman, although preferable to anchorman when referring to a woman who anchors news, because it does away with the generic use of "man" is

flawed. The word describes the news-anchor's gender, though immaterial to the issue of news-anchoring. Consider the use of anchororiental, even anchorheterosexual! Absurd, no??

By the same token, why must an emcee call the attention of the "Ladies and Gentlemen" in an audience? Some argue that "ladies and gentlemen" is used only out of rhetorical tradition and does not really mean "adult persons with female physiologies and adult persons with male physiologies" — it has lost its original meaning to become a dead metaphor. If it is no longer used denotatively, but continues to reflect an earlier oppression, it still must be seen on balance as unworthy of our use.

A colorful expression such as "ballsy," indicating great daring, must be eliminated because it derives its meaning from the sexist notion that men, the sole possessors of balls, concomitantly are the sole possessors of this quality of daring, due to the hormones these unique "balls" secrete (akin to penis envy). It is an anomaly, then, that a woman should be called ballsy. And ballsy is, by no means, the only word of its kind.

Language can't reflect or affect our liberation until all words like she, he, her, his, hers, him, widow, waitress, actress, starlet are killed or supplanted. Instead, we should use basic nouns and pronouns which may be modified as the need arises.

The English language lends itself more readily than a great many others to precision and explicitness, and it is more easily changed, because of its fundamental nature. Unlike Romance languages, English uses only neuter articles. We don't consider nouns as being masculine or feminine, viewing them instead without gender. They may be sexually associable, as a menstrual period, or an ejaculation, but the articling of nouns in English is done without connotation. Our tables aren't feminine; our newspapers are not masculine.

With respect to pronouns, however, English is as guilty as the rest. But if a suitable neuter personal pronoun were devised, though it might seem unpleasing to the ear, it would work grammatically without hassle. The same goes for possessive pronouns, as they would have to work in conjunction with one another.

I don't advocate the sterilization of the English language; I don't believe democratizing it would amount to that. It would, rather, free us all from non-essential associations that allow us the room for prejudgment and value inference.

SPORTERS



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WORKING VERY
HARD ON THE
EXPANSION OF
YOUR BAR



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NEW YORK REVELATIONS

By Tony Russo

This column marks my first anniversary of writing "New York Revelations." A year has passed and the column has survived the battlefield of New York Gay Politics. It is quite a feat considering that no column like it has lasted as long in a gay newspaper.

As a result of writing the column, I have become regarded as an expert on New York Movement activities. I almost feel like directory assistance: "Call up Tony Russo and find out what's going on tonight." It's sometimes like being another Gay Switchboard.

But, in the year I have been writing the column, I have become more aware of movement politics. New York is a difficult town to hold any position of authority without being subject to a vast amount of criticism. In the history of the movement there has never been a person who was condoned by the masses or even recognized by the masses as a viable leader. It is not that the gay movement needs a leader, but it is odd that we do not have our Martin Luther Kings and Gloria Steinems.

The reason is, in part, because of our diversity and, because we tend to emphasize that diversity rather than rally around it. We have not created a real "gay community." Those who have tried to organize the gay community or made attempts at making

gay liberation a more viable option, have only received vast criticism from those too self conscious to bring about any change themselves. We have essentially created our own "gay bind."

But, aside from my frustrations in writing about the New York movement, there is a basic challenge and satisfaction in writing. I am always eager to hear people's opinions of "New York Revelations." I have received comments ranging from: "Oh, you're the one who writes that column. A lot of people in New England cannot understand your column" (as the person looks me up and down with a wrinkled nose) to "It's the first thing I read in GCN. I always look forward to it." Then, there are always those who want to change your format and feel that the column should be _____. My first attempt at changing my format met opposition from GCN. Last spring I had decided to add some variety to the column and interview people, groups and integrate more commentary. One week I had decided to send an interview as that week's column. The following week I found the interview in GCN, but not as part of "New York Revelations," but as a News Commentary. The following week I sent up another interview as part of the column. Again it appeared as a News Commentary. I was later told that New Englanders might pass it up if it were a

part of the column and, it is probably best that the column keep its basic newsboard format. So, I started to write more News Commentaries and less "New York Revelations."

When I first decided to write the column, my biggest decision was the title. My original title was: "A New York Perspective." People told me that it was too dull and that I should jazz it up. Originally, I thought of having a quote from the Bible or the Bhagavad-gita as part of the Revelations theme. But, I was never that reli-

gious and I thought it might be misinterpreted. So, I kept "New York Revelations" without a quote, always unsatisfied, and wanting to change it to "A New York Perspective" or another title more indicative of the column.

Starting next week this column will vary on a bi-monthly to weekly basis. GCN still does not pay its writers and that can become a problem. Sheer dedication to the paper is not enough to support oneself. But, the column will continue, at least hopefully, to see a second year.

GAY MEN'S CENTER NEWS

BOSTON — There will be popcorn and lemonade to enjoy while watching the movies Friday evening Oct. 1 at the Men's Center. The center is very grateful to Andy G. for presenting his program of films which includes the films of Abbott and Costello, Charlie Chaplin, and Laurel and Hardy. Variety is the fare for films as also screened are cartoons and horror flicks such as *The Screaming Skull* and *Torantula*.

On the first Tuesday of each month in Los Angeles, for nearly a year now, representatives from all gay organizations have met and any gay person is invited to a dinner meeting. After dinner any person may speak on issues important to the speaker of interest to the gay community. The Boston Gay Mens Center cordially invited representatives and members of other gay organizations to the first FIRST TUESDAY meeting to be held at the GMC at 36 Bromfield St., Boston on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 7:00 and the meal is pot luck. This is an informal exchange or time to attract others to a gay project or activity and is a pleasurable cordial occasion.

Lyn Rosen, managing editor of the

Gay Community News, is the featured guest speaker Sept. 28 at 7:30 at the center as the first speaker of the new Gay Forum. She will speak on issues regarding the newspaper and the Boston gay community at large. The Gay Forum is open to the community as a departure from the center's focus on gay men and as a forum for wide discussion and participation.

Wednesday evenings at 7:30 offers a choice of two new exciting group discussions. The Meditation and Psychic Healing group is covering the many basic techniques of this new consciousness topic. The Contemporary Gay Fiction Group is discussing Patricia Nell Warren's novel, *The Front Runner*. Still plenty of time to join in.

Through the donation of member Rick Collins we now have the use of a pool table, which is much appreciated. The GMC library is enlarging to make it more interesting and useful. It has new current periodicals and newspapers. Suggestions and donations would be most welcome. If you haven't been to GMC, check us out, we're only down two streets from the Park Street MTA station.

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SWP's Evans — A Woman Runs for the Senate

By Annette D. Gagne

BOSTON — The following is an exclusive GCN interview with Carol Henderson Evans, who is running for United States Senator from Massachusetts against incumbent Democrat Edward Kennedy. She is running on the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) ticket along with Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates Peter Camejo and Willie Mae Reid and Massachusetts Ninth District Congressional candidate Mac Warren.

GCN: What is the Socialist Workers Party's stand on Gay Liberation, gay rights?

Evans: We're completely opposed to any law that discriminates against gay people and in fact we would support any laws that would forbid discrimination against anybody on the basis of their sexual preference. We feel that democratic rights should be given to everybody and gay people are certainly no exception. Using someone's sexual preference as a basis for discriminating against them is completely undemocratic and should be unconstitutional.

GCN: Are there gay people in the SWP?

Evans: Yes, quite a number of people are openly gay in the SWP and a number of them in fact are very active in the gay rights movement.

The whole organization of course supports gay rights activities. We carried a banner in the Gay Pride Parade here in Boston and I spoke at the rally [at City Hall — GCN] and all over the country our members are very active in gay rights.

GCN: Could you mention any specific work that the SWP has done with other gay liberation organizations?

Evans: In New York we've worked with the Gay Activists Alliance, here in Boston we've worked on building the



Carol Henderson Evans

Gay Pride demonstrations and other activities that have taken place. Also a few years ago, some of our members were active in the Homophile Community Health Service. One of our members, Diane Travis, was a moderator on a gay talk show with Elaine Noble.

It's done pretty much on a city by city basis. When there is an active movement in a city our members are either part of whatever organizations there are or we work as closely as we can. If they have any activities we try to publicize them, help to build them, announce them, things like that. We very frequently, several times a year, have a forum on gay rights where we invite people in the gay rights movement to come and speak as well as our own representatives who are involved in gay rights.

GCN: How does the SWP go about seeking social change in the area of gay liberation?

Evans: Well, we think that the main way of accomplishing gay rights is by the gay community and its allies — the SWP considers itself an ally of the gay community — organizing demonstrations like the Gay Pride demonstration and rallies. Whenever possible we participate in building and supporting them. We think that's the main way that gay rights are going to eventually be won — through public campaigns that educate people away from the idea that there is something inherently wrong or different or perverted about gay people. You need a campaign of education and action that is in the streets, reaching a broad community beyond the gay community.

GCN: What do you think of the National Gay Rights Lobby that was recently formed?

Evans: Well, I think that any activity that brings gay people and people who support the rights of gay people together to fight for gay rights is a positive step forward. I don't think that the answer to winning gay rights is in going to a bunch of congresspeople and representatives and asking them, "Please, you know, grant our constitutional rights." I don't think that any movement can win their just demands by relying on Democratic and Republican Party politicians.

We've been treated to spectacle after spectacle in the area of women's rights, minority rights, just about everything that you can imagine where various candidates would get up and say, "Well, elect me and I'll solve your problems for you," and then they just turn around and forget about you once they're elected. I mean, they look upon any of these movements — and the gay rights movement is no exception — as a source of votes that will get them elected so they can do what they want to do once they're elected and the

only way that gay rights can be won is if the gay rights movement organizes independently of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The Democratic and Republican parties are extremely unsympathetic and in fact outright reactionaries about the issue of gay rights.

You know, there are maybe one or two legislators who do support gay rights. But they're a minority and the only way that any kind of legislation will be passed is if a movement builds up that is strong enough and powerful enough that they can't not support it.

You can draw a parallel with the women's movement. George McGovern was presented as the "savior" of the women's movement. Then when push came to shove, when he was trying to get the nomination, a lot of the women in his campaign went to the women's movement and said, "Look, let's not get an abortion rights position onto the platform because it'll turn off voters." — That's basically the attitude that most Democratic and Republican party politicians take to these movements.

They try to arrange backroom deals where you have absolutely no power base. But the only way gay rights can be won is if an independent movement — independent of parties, independent of politicians — is built up which forces these politicians to take a stand. More importantly, a movement has to win the support of the majority of the people so they can't help but support gay rights.

GCN: Do you see any link between the competitiveness of the "straight white male" mystique and capitalist exploitation?

Evans: Oh, very definitely. Not just the masculine identity, but the feminine identity as well. I mean, the whole economy is based on the male going out and competing so that they can provide support for the family unit that they're supposed to support. And women are supposed to stay home and take care of the children, the sick and the elderly. So the family unit bears the responsibility. This makes the necessity for men to have a good job, to compete in the job market, to succeed, to fulfill the role of "the man," an integral part of capitalist society and the whole capitalist economy.

When that begins to tilt, it shakes up the whole capitalist system. It begins to raise questions. — You know, women going out and getting jobs, that takes them out of the home. Well, then, who's going to take care of the sick and the elderly? — It comes back to what I was talking about before, of society having to take on the responsibility for the sick and the elderly and not just dumping it on a family unit.

Any society will socialize people to justify the way the society operates. People in this society are socialized to the image of the "big macho male," who never cries and who's out there competing in the job market and the dependent wife who stays home and takes care of the children and couldn't possibly deal with the "tough, cruel world out there."

These are things that are a product of this society. They're not, by any stretch of the imagination, necessarily products of human nature. We have no basis for saying what human nature is because capitalism has so completely deformed human nature and humanity that it would take generations after socialism and a rational, humane society was established, before we would ever really understand what human nature really is and what humanity is really capable of.

Miss Gay Contest Ends in a Brawl

By David Holland

BOSTON — The Miss Gay East Coast Pageant exploded into an "unladylike" fracas last week in Boston. The beauty and talent show, held Sunday, Sept. 19, at the downstairs Citadel Lounge, was the second such contest to end in a skirmish. The contestants, all of whom were drag queens, represented local Boston bars and included representa-

tives from both the Randolph Country Club and two Manchester, N.H., bars. The night's proceedings began on a sour note as the contest was delayed nearly two hours by the absence of the two Citadel contestants. Michelle of Foxy Ladies Review hosted the event and requested the Citadel entrants' disqualification due to their lateness. The two contestants arrived later during the initial introduction of candidates and

were admitted into the contest. They had had car trouble which Citadel manager Harry Zagouras stated he had authenticated.

The melee began at the contest's conclusion when Warren Carpenter, Manchester (N.H.) bar owner and sponsor of two contestants, took the stage to object to the winner, a Citadel representative. Carpenter stated that the contest was "fixed," and went further to point out that the contestants had initially been disqualified. The confrontation resulted in a physical attack on Michelle. Some member of the audience responded by throwing a barrage of glasses onto the stage, which resulted in both Carpenter and other audience members sustaining cuts and bruises.

Michelle told GCN that she "would never run another pageant in this city." "I've run pageants all along the South," she said, "but nowhere is the mood so volatile as in Boston!" One contestant, in recommending a judge to serve during the contest, claimed he was told that judges could participate only if Citadel contestants were favored. Harry Zagouras of the Citadel denied this complaint. "I picked two judges," he commented, "and Michelle picked three. There was no room for a fixed contest."

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By Don Shewey

Film critic Andrew Sarris once called him “the *Voice*’s own version of Rona Barrett.” Another well-known New York media person grumbled, “He’s made a lot of enemies in this city because he’s so *indiscreet*.” Although he actually considers himself a New York diarist and the soul of discretion, Arthur Bell doesn’t mind comments like those above, because he enjoys being a controversial writer. Besides which, thanks to his weekly “Bell Tells” in the *Village Voice*, he is the most widely-read openly gay columnist in the country.

Bell’s writing career happened as a direct result of the gay activist movement spawned by the ’60s. While working at Random House as a publicist for children’s books, he joined the movement as a co-founder of the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA). His news articles for *Gay Power*, *Gay*, and the *Voice* earned him a contract to write *Dancing the Gay Lib Blues: A Year in the Homosexual Liberation Movement*, an irreverent, ground-level view of the birth of gay activism, published by Simon & Schuster in 1971.

Five years later, now a well-known freelance writer of movie star interviews and crime stories, he is working on a book about the murder of Philadelphia newspaper heir John Knight III. But, like many of the original activists, he has almost totally dissociated himself from “the movement” such as it is today, although he continues to be consulted as a gay spokesperson. When I visited Arthur Bell at his Upper East Side apartment one rainy afternoon this summer, he was asked via a phone call from *Blueboy* magazine to comment on the new gay movement. “I don’t know,” he sighed, “is there a new gay movement? When I see any of the old movement people, which is rarely anymore, we don’t talk about the gay movement or zapping Mayor Lindsay . . . What do we talk about? Our love lives, Jimmy Carter . . .”

During the “informal non-interview” that follows, we discussed the gay movement, Ann-Margaret, *Village Voice* homophobia, and gay murders, among other things.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DS: How did you start writing for the *Voice*?

AB: When GAA was founded, they needed somebody to grind out publicity releases, “What is GAA?” And essentially that’s one of the things I was doing for Random House. That’s how I started writing, and I did it for *Gay Power*, which was wonderful because in those days we were very fervent, it was a very exciting time. *Gay Power* and *Gay* started about the same time — *Gay Power* was more of a radical paper. In July, 1970, they were bought by a porno king, so the tenor of the newspaper changed. So I took Mary Nichols [then a *Voice* editor], whom I knew vaguely from my Random House experience, to lunch, and I said, “Hey, kid, I’ve got news for you, this is what I’m involved in. Are you interested in stories about gay liberation from time to time?” She said, “If they’re well-written and have something to say, yeah.” So about two or three weeks later there was a sit-in at Rockefeller headquarters followed by a demonstration downtown. When we came back I banged out an article in about an hour. And the next week, lo and behold, it was front-page news in the *Voice*. The second thing that I did was a scandalous thing on Randy Agnew which sort of established me. (laughs) As a result of that, I got the contract to do the book on GAA, and I left my publicity job, and I did two or three pieces for the *Voice* while I was writing the book. After that I started writing for the *Voice* on a regular basis. I’ve always been interested in movies, so I started doing movie people. I was really most interested in writing about gay lifestyles. I did a piece very early on street hustlers, and then I did a piece on street transvestites, and I enjoyed doing things like that. I became a controversial writer pretty early, because I’ve never done propaganda pieces. I’ve always shown the moles as well as the hairspray.

DS: When did you start writing the column?

AB: Oh, I’ve only had the column for about a year and a half. That was because of Ann-Margaret actually. I was asked to do an Ann-Margaret piece for the *Voice* prior to the opening of *Tommy*, and I don’t do interviews with people around — it gets the stars nervous, it inhibits me. Little did I know that Ann-Margaret was never let out without Allen Carr, her public relations guy, and Roger Smith, her husband. But they were desperate to get a piece in the *Voice*, so they agreed. Well, I did this piece with her, and I thought it was somewhat

sympathetic, but she really is the dumbest person I’ve ever met in my life. She’s very sweet, you know, she’s a wreck, she cries and cries and cries, and, like, she couldn’t get room service, and tears started crawling, dripping from her eyes. I asked her what her favorite foods in the whole world were, and there were these long pauses, and she’d say, “Wedding cake . . .” You can understand why they don’t let her out. Then two or three weeks later, I was at the opening of Bette Midler’s show, and that awful Allen Carr, her personal manager, pulls me over — I’m with friends — and what he did essentially was tell me he’d put a contract out on my life. I was very, very nervous, and I went to the office the next day, and I said, “I’m really working without any protection at all,” you know. I really laid it on with a trowel! So they gave me the column! But it was really — I’m not patting myself on the shoulder, but it was the first of this whole revival of you know, Liz Smith and Bobby Weiner. They’ve all started because of what I was doing, but I wasn’t doing a gossip column, I was doing a sort of New York diary. “Oh, we went here and we fell into the pool and then everybody got drunk,” but I was not taking telephone calls. I didn’t care what Elizabeth Taylor was doing with Richard Burton in Africa. I was just doing what I had seen. I would do a party one week, an interview the next, and they loved it at the paper. But it was all from my point of view, that of an openly gay, crazy person.

I do poke around sometimes — like they had that party for *Robin and Marian* a little while ago, and there were lots of stars there, so I went over and talked to William Holden and did the Earl Wilson number, but, you see, I come from a different direction, and I think that’s the difference between the type of stuff I do and the type of stuff practically everybody else in this city who has a column does. I’m not interested in if somebody is fucking with somebody else — well, I’m interested, but I don’t use that as a ts-ksk thing. Y’know? I’m really more interested in fucking people over if they’re hypocrites. The hypocrisy thing is, you know, if there are any leitmotifs in my column-writing, that’s probably what it is.

DS: How do you feel being the Rona Barrett of the *Village Voice*?

AB: Oh, come on, I don’t even want to waste your tape on that, OK?

DS: Do you feel any responsibility being the most widely-read gay columnist in the country?

AB: When you say that, I feel that I should, but the problem is that I don’t feel any responsibility. I think if I started to, my work would be very weightily. I’m sorry, I wish that I could have more programmed integrity . . .

“I became a controversial writer pretty early, because I’ve never done propaganda pieces. I’ve always shown the moles as well as the hairspray.”

DS: Well, I remember one time you mentioned the renovated Club Baths and just folded that in with the rest of your stuff . . .

AB: Oh, well, I do that, and they love it! The straights out there adore it, just love it! I certainly don’t do it for the straights, I just do it. I find that if it’s boring to me, it goes into the garbage can. But if it reads with zing, it goes through the paper.

DS: Are there things that go on in gay circles that you choose to cover or choose not to cover?

AB: There’s a lot of stuff I choose not to cover. I won’t write gay liberation news, per se, anymore because 1) I’m not involved in it and 2) I don’t think I could do it fairly. I suggest to them occasionally people that should write the story if something comes up, and they do it much, much better than me. Quite frankly, I don’t find it exciting anymore. I’m constantly being lectured to — not constantly, but occasionally I’m lectured to by people who say there are things happening in Queens, and I get bulletins from the church, and I’ve never written about the church, I’ve never written about psychiatry. I’m not interested in that stuff. But I’m an openly gay person, and I have no qualms about it. If something gets me mad, I’ll yell — I have been known to yell in screening rooms at movies. But it’s a personal thing with me, as opposed to an organizational thing. By the same token, if things delight me, I’ll write about it and tell about it. I’ve got the biggest mouth in town.

DS: The *Voice* has been called homophobic — what do you think about that?

AB: Oh, I think that’s a crock of shit. I think some of the writers that have written for the paper are homophobic, still are, and some of them aren’t. There’s a lot less of it now that Tom Morgan is editor there — he’s more aware of the sensitivity of it. But it wouldn’t surprise me, after having said that, that next week we come out with a big story about why homosexuals are a bore. I don’t know, if the story’s well-written and if it’s somewhat controversial and has some kind of theme and says something that has not been said before in a refreshing way, they’ll use it.

DS: So any homophobia you would attribute to the writers?

AB: Yeah, and also occasionally to the carelessness of an editor. But if a piece is generally homophobic, as was that terrible thing about fag hag movie stars, you really can’t blame the editors. That was a very well-written piece, but that was a homophobic piece and it was written by a man who is gay, which makes it even worse. People tend to forget that for every homophobic story that gets published in the *Voice*, we have 15 that aren’t. They also forget that the *Voice* since the beginning has been doing more homosexual reporting than perhaps any other paper in the country. There is not an editorial policy that says, “We are going to publish anti-homosexual pieces.” In fact, four or five months ago, some coalition got together, and they came over to the *Voice*, and I cannot tell you how many people showed up. It was supposed to be an exchange of ideas, and everyone from Tom Morgan to the lowliest shipping clerk showed up for that meeting. And it was interesting: they told us what the gripes were, and it was interesting, honest exchange. I don’t know if that ever happened at the *Times* or the *Post*. Which doesn’t make us any better, but we’re aware of the problems. Morgan’s been in since September — he’s great, a very, very honorable, decent man. (laughs) I am not paid by the *Voice* in any public relations capacity. . . .

DS: What else do you write for besides the *Voice*?

AB: Well, since I got the book contract I’ve stopped writing for everybody, but I write for *Esquire* and *Cosmo* and *Viva*. Different things — I do interviews for *Viva*, and I did a thing on tap dancing for *Cosmo* and one on movie magazines. For *Esquire*, I’ve done three pieces which are the best magazine pieces I’ve done. The hairiest thing I’ve ever done was that thing on the Houston murders. I got down there two days after it happened, I was there when they were digging up the bodies — the deal with *Esquire* was, they figured the *Times* would be doing a psychological study of the brain cells of Dean Corll and the news stories would all be covered, so they thought it would be interesting to talk to the families, so that’s what I did when I got down there. They poured their hearts out. I’m usually able to keep a little window between what I’m doing and who I am, but I couldn’t with these people. I got sick down there — when I got back here it took me six weeks before I could sit down at the typewriter to write about it. Right after it happened, they had a big town meeting at this church, and all the politicians were saying, “Vote for me, and I’ll see that this never happens again,” and the church people were saying, “Put a pool table in the church, and the kids won’t hang around on the street,” and all that had nothing to do with what happened.

DS: You’ve said that you like covering crime stories better than anything else. Why is that?

AB: Because there’s always a scent of mystery. If you’re covering a movie star, you know all about them before you go in, so you’re trying to pull stuff from them that’s new and interesting. But you hit a new town, and somebody’s just been murdered, and you’re with a whole new flock of people, and what you’re doing is putting together a crossword puzzle. You’re really the star when you’re covering a murder. Your perception of it and the way you handle it is a whole different thing. It’s a problem at this point because there’s so much, there are so many different angles to the Knight murder — the political thing, the whole thing about the newspaper chain and the grandfather. As I got to learn more about the people involved, it turns out that I do like everybody — the murderers and the murdered.

For instance, when I was down there covering the Soli trial, you know — okay, so he’s a real first class sonofabitch, he’s been involved in crime since he was a teenager, he’s 37 now, and all the terrible things with pushing pills to kids, but there he is in court and his mother, who was very sick and had to be wheeled in every day, would not stay at home, she wouldn’t miss a moment of it. And when the district attorney comes out and gives this absolutely elegant speech about how he believes that Soli executed the actual murder of John Knight, the mother has a heart attack in court. And Soli, whose mouth had been shut up to that point, starts calling the district attorney a motherfucker and sonofabitch and all that. You’re dealing with raw emotion there, and you’re also realizing that this man may be the most horrendous person on earth, but there’s the whole family thing there, it’s a whole different side of his personality. I love doing stuff like that.

DS: Do you have any sights or goals beyond the book you’re doing?

AB: Oh, Don, I’ve got no sights and no goals. Maybe more books. I don’t know, really. The thing for me to do is to get this book done and do it brilliantly.

DS: Is there anything else you might want to say to the readers of GCN?

AB: No. I don’t know, “Keep slugging, kids?”



Arthur Bell, openly gay columnist from the *Village Voice*.

Photo by Frank Teti

“You hit a new town, and somebody’s just been murdered . . . and what you’re doing is putting together a crossword puzzle. You’re really the star when you’re covering a murder.”

Boston Openings: the acid and the saccharin

By Don Shewey

It is almost impossible to give a bad performance of *Private Lives*, Noel Coward's comedy masterpiece — the lines practically deliver, laugh at and applaud themselves. So even going to see a mediocre production of it, such as the one currently being given by the Lyric Stage of Boston, can be a pleasurable experience.

Private Lives is built very much like *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and is just as profound in its insights on that game of games, marriage, Coward's field, of course, being comedy and more sophisticated in its vitriol than Albee's profanity. Elyot Chase and his bride Sibyl are honeymooning on the Riviera in the suite next door to Elyot's ex-wife, Amanda and her newlywed hubby Victor Prynne, a situation which produces one of the most delightful first acts in the history of theatre. After attempting to persuade their bewildered yet unyielding spouses to beat a hasty retreat, Elyot and Amanda inevitably rediscover their long-dormant mutual attraction and throw caution to the wind and their bags in his car, fleeing to her apartment in Paris with Sibyl and Victor not far behind.

In three clever, economical acts, Coward holds up to a light the prism of human relationships, spilling out myriad shafts of wit and perception, comparing and contrasting his two sets of lovebirds, and poking gaping holes in the myth of the perfect union. Elyot and Amanda seem to be made for each other — they share a zest for living, an intrepid curiosity, a scandalous sense of humor, and a nasty temper. At first, their choices for second mates seem entirely unsuitable — both Sibyl and Victor are little-minded, slow-witted, terribly conventional, and basically practical. But as lines are echoed by various characters, scenes paralleled by

the different couples, Coward makes clear that even marriages made in heaven fall from grace eventually. Elyot and Amanda may have a foolhardy passion that makes love exciting but they lack the complementary rationality that a Sibyl or a Victor can offer. And the two couples aren't as dissimilar as they seem — Amanda may act worldly-wise but she's no less romantic (or demanding) than quibbling Sibyl. As much as he despises Victor's conservatism, Elyot can get just as tight-assed when his male ego is bruised. Needless to say, Coward's Guide to Love and Hate applies to gay couples just as well — no bliss, harmony, and till-death-do-us-part without selfishness, jealousy, and bickering.

Hampered by a painfully cramped playing space and amateurish acting, the Lyric Stage's production is annoyingly stilted at first; the action features more strutting and posing than a department store pageant. But it does inspire some new thoughts on the play, whether intentionally or not. We think of Elyot and Amanda as Beautiful People married to clods, but Ron Ritchell and Polly Hogan deviate from that mold, with nice results. Ritchell is a rather dumpy, ill-dressed Elyot, which makes his blustering more natural, and Hogan bears an uncanny resemblance to Mrs. Judy Beasley (Lily Tomlin's Midwestern housewife character), which underlines the streak of prudishness in Amanda. Both actors need to loosen up a bit, but they do have mellifluous voices well-equipped to handle glorious lines like "Honeymooning is a vastly overrated pastime" and "I can't stand to think I've married such rugged grandeur!" Jennie Polgrun brings down the house as the French maid, Louise, a consistently gratifying walk-on role.



Two marriages made in Filene's basement: *Private Lives* at the Lyric Stage, 54 Charles Street, Boston.

Less disastrous but equally unnecessary is *The Baker's Wife*, which opened at the Shubert last week. The plot rivals boy-meets-girl for entry to the Cliche Kingdom — a lovable old baker named Aimable (get it?) and his beautiful young wife arrive in a small village, wife runs off with handsome young laborer, husband is paralyzed with grief, wife realizes there's more to love than a good lay and returns repentant to wise, lovable husband. What makes this simple, if creaky plot downright nauseating is the sledgehammered love-conquers-all moral Scotch-taped to the ending; the villagers, a petty batch of prudes, feuders, and back-stabbers, are so moved, so affected, so inspired, so blissed-out by the reunion of the baker and his wife that they resolve to forgive and forget and live in harmony and

peace for ever and ever. Kinda makes you want to . . . throw up.

Although his singing is execrable, Topol manages to bring a rough gentility to the role of the baker; for a few moments at the end of Act One, his innocent sorrow adds a bittersweet touch to the fable. But Patti LuPone as his wife deftly sweeps him and the entire supporting cast off the stage with an astonishing, star-quality performance. With each of her four songs (and especially "Where Is the Warmth?") she literally stops the show. Like the ill-begotten musical *Rex*, *The Baker's Wife* seems destined to flop on Broadway and close after a three-week run at most. But even if it does, it will have done great service to the theatre by showcasing the talents of Patti LuPone, who cannot help but go on to greatness.



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PEOPLE, PLACES & FLINGS

By David Holland

Just as I had expected. The social season is now under full swing and beside me sits a veritable avalanche of people, places, and flings. I'm beginning to compare this little corner with coaxing an elephant into a breadbox! . . . Starting off with a mixer, I attended the opening of **Cafe Felix** at **One Mercantile Wharf**. Everyone from the cream of Boston attended this cream of an affair. Chefs Guertin and Gee have just returned from a six-year yacht-chartering experience in the West Indies. They accordingly bring this excitement into their new venture. As I sat beside local digs, Lt. Governor Thomas P. O'Neill, Francis X. Bellotti, and Shelby Scott at the indoor terrace cafe, watching a glass elevator tower to the floors above, I knew it would not be difficult to maintain this level of excitement, regardless of the night, at this new nightspot. Cafe Felix catches the chic and excitement of this fashionable new waterfront community . . . And speaking of new spots, or simply those made new, **Harry's Place** on Essex Street will be opening a new top floor lounge at this cozy hide-away. Watch for the premier of this piano/comic bar . . . Contrary to rumor, **Sylvia Sidney** is not having an affair with the Eggman but she is performing every Monday night at **Together**. Her raw hysteria could make the devil blush but it will tickle the devil in you . . . On the subject of blythe spirits, **Playland** and the **Citadel** are busy planning for their annually popular Halloween festivities. Watch for more information to materialize later . . . While

Herb Zangari of **Herbie's Ramrod** and **Jimmy McGrath** of **Playland**, wheel their way across the country, the 12 Carver locale pulls out their 5:00 Sunday buffet tables. And you thought Mama Leone's had closed! Herbie and Jimmy, on the other hand, were last seen bare trapping in Yellowstone . . . You don't have to break down the walls at **Sporters**, they've already done that and are now sweeping up the dust to get ready to unveil their long-awaited expansion . . . You can't knock on doors forever to watch Mary Hartman just because your T.V. has a loose tube. And you can't miss it either. **Lester's** will make that old video box in the closet work again, when you thought it never would. If you can't walk it over, their Beacon Hill, Revere St. shop will pick-up and deliver, free . . . "**Soap**," a satirical look at the "schizophrenic realities" of T.V. soap operas, has its pre-NY premier at the ever-popular **Proposition Theater** at Inman Sq. It begins Sept. 29. Soap operas, beware! Call 876-0088 to reserve your stage-side bench . . . "**Union Maids**" and "**A Woman's Place in the House: A Portrait of Elaine Noble**," are the Oct. 3 openers of **Women and Work**, a women's series of films at the Harvard Science Center Hall C. A film will be shown every Sunday in October at both 7:30 and 9:30. Call 495-1772 weekdays between 2 and 5 for further information . . . **Karen Becker** opens her exhibit of photographs at the **Prospect St. Photo Co-Op Gallery** Sept. 26 and will run until Oct. 17, weekdays 7 to 10 . . . You ain't seen **Nothin'** yet, but

if you want to view this original Piper House comedy revue call 267-3535. The show opens Oct. 13 at **Matt Talbot's** . . . Curtain time for the season premier of the **Boston Ballet**. They open with a Balanchine trio of works. Other performances include Cunningham's "Cinderella" and an Agnes de Mille festival. Ticket office: 542-3945 . . . Did someone say show-time? **Together** begins a Sunday series of **Marx Brothers** film classics. Fill your buffet plate and settle back to an evening of frivolity and food. All Together, it's free . . . **Carol and the Burgandies** will be appearing at **Port-O'-Call** in Worcester Oct. 1 and 2 . . . While you're away from home, snuggle in at the **Governor Collins Inn**. This Newport home away from your own is central to everything and their new off-season rates make it a real money saver. Phone reservations now: (401) 846-1323 . . . **Ariadne Kane** is busy organizing for the second annual **Fantasia Fair** in **Provincetown**. The fair, part of the TV Outreach program, will provide a week-long series of learning and living experiences, "en femme." It begins Oct. 15 with a schedule of workshops too long to list here. Write Ariadne at Box 161 G, Cambridge, Mass. for more info . . . Get well wishes are sent to **Madeline** of the **Randolph Country Club** who recently suffered a heart attack and is presently hospitalized . . . The \$64,000 Question: Who's having a what where? The what is an eat, drink and be merry party but only my readers will know for sure, next week . . .



Karen Becker
Photographs 1970-1975

Last Minute Bulletin from the **Back Bay Screening Room**: "**Montreal Main**," lovely story of an affair of the heart between a man and a boy, will come to the theatre for one week starting Wednesday, Sept. 29. Shows will be continuous from 4:00 on.



By Mike Markowski

Some twenty Bostonians headed to Toronto for the **Spearhead's Round-Up** run over Labor Day Weekend. After hearing reports on the run, it is obvious that **Spearhead** did it again and threw one hell of a great event.

Mention must be made of the unusual cocktail party given by the **Trident M.C.** It was shades of the **Jolly Roger** with the **Trident** converting Ron W.'s sailboat, the "**Quick Trick**," into a pirate ship which then "attacked" the boat carrying the run participants while they were "cruising" Lake Ontario aboard the "**Mariposa Belle**." Ray, Ronnie, Chris, Yves, and others portrayed King Neptune and his Court with Dick S. carrying up the rear as **Queen Nautica**, no less. Awards for participation went to 9-plus of New York City and the Lanyards of Toronto. Terry M. of Boston won the longest distance by motorcycle trophy, and Adam of 9-plus won the Mr. Round-Up contest.

Stopped into **Twelve Carver** to see the bar's great new decor. Jimmy of

Playland, who decorates his own bar so well, did the job. He made **Twelve Carver** even more comfortable and attractive. It proved to be too comfortable in fact. Bartenders Bill and Tony managed to get me a little drunk! Hit **Sporters** one day to check on the progress of their renovations and enlarging. The new room is coming along fine and will open shortly. Then it's the main bar to be re-done, and rumor has it, perhaps a basement bar in the future. Oh, yes, Jerry and Jack got me somewhat drunk too.

Harry's Place on Essex St. is in the process of re-doing its second floor and converting it into a new bar to be called **King's Castle**. Mike is still renovating downstairs also. The place should be a must stop while downtown.

Attended the **Voyager's M.C.** first anniversary dinner at **Randolph Country Club**. Yes, bartender Tommy Y. managed to get me somewhat drunk. Bill S. and his group made all of the guests enjoy themselves, including guest speaker, the honorable Elaine Noble, who was further honored by honorary membership in the **Voyagers M.C.** **Entre Nous** was presented with three trophies (participation, appreciation and friendship). **Entre Nous** member Rod H. was given the coveted "support from associate member" trophy. Rick N. of the **Vulcan R.C.** received the **Gloria Roderick Humanitarian Award**.

Rap-Up

The **A.S.M.C.** are busy planning fall showings of "**My Fair A.S.M.C.**" Adele Barnaby, wife of Co-Captain Walter, was voted in as their latest full member. She's worked very hard and it's great to see her wearing the club overlay. A memorial service for beloved **A.S.M.C.** member Bill L. will be held Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the **Charles Street Meetinghouse**. **Entre Nous** member Rod H. will officiate.

Sunday the 12th saw **Entre Nous** members and their guests getting together at the 1270 for the annual election of officers and election dinner. Joe K., past captain for two years, did not seek re-election. He is understandably busy managing two of Boston's most popular bars, the 1270 and the **Boston Eagle**. A worthy successor was voted in and Paul C. of **Sea Drift Inn** fame was elected Captain. With the help of his new executive board another good year for **Entre Nous** seems assured. I must add that I was surprised, but proud, to receive a trophy for **Entre Nous** Man of the Year and to be voted to the position of club scribe.

Bartender Spotlight

There is a gay bar in Boston that is close to becoming an institution. **Twelve Carver** has been in operation close to 18 years with one of their bar-

tenders making the past 10 years there a pleasure for customers. He is one of the most lovable and witty bartenders around. Any patron will tell you that I am talking about Ricky! His ready humor and sincerity draw crowds every night that he is on duty.

He says that he was born "30 or so years ago" in Cambridge. It was impossible to verify this as records were not kept prior to 1866. During the British invasion of Boston, he joined the army (Continental?), and his tour of duty was Korea. After living in California for eight years, the San Francisco Earthquake prompted him to return to Boston where he joined the **Twelve Carver** staff.

A Bay Village resident, he shares his apartment with two large animals named Smoky and Toby. He is an ardent fan of the late Marilyn Monroe and a big movie buff. His favorite is "**Tidal Wave**" with its cast of tens. Reading and travelling are also interests of his. His zodiac sign is Aries which in his case must be synonymous with friendliness because he is one of the friendliest guys around. If you want to have a few laughs and good conversation, stop in and have a drink or two with Ricky. He's on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Our New York critic **Robert Chesley** informs us that the night he saw the **Glines'** production "**A Drop In the Pudding**," **Glen Czako**, not **Robert Venase**, was playing the lead role.

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Gloria Gaynor: Long Live the Queen!

By David Holland

Sitting at the typewriter, immersed and stereophonically surrounded by Gloria Gaynor carries me back to the original excitement of her performance recently at Together. She played to a house brimming with admirers who were far from disappointed. One observer commented, "It's like coming to the Sugar Shack all over again!" That comment was not only a tribute to a great performer but also to the staff of Together for arranging one of the best club performances of the season.

She filled the room with her "classic" disco tunes, from "Honey Bee" to "Casanova Brown." Although they brought back the original delight in discovering her, they, like most popular disco music, becomes somewhat nostalgic even within the short frame of a year. Gone are the days of Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra that required a time lapse of twenty years to make musical nostalgia.

Gloria Gaynor, coming from the fairy-tale world of being discovered in a small Newark, N.J., bar, of singing before a Columbia talent scout and soon after cutting her first album, of still reigning as one of the top disco performers, no longer has to question her place. She is the "Queen of Disco."

She has an album coming out in January on Polydor Records and will soon work on the upcoming Gospel film with Bill Tender. All this time she's still busy creating new music such as "I'm Still Yours," sung at the concert. Her quiet and reserved behavior at the interview belied her



Photos by Roland Lund

stage appearance. About the audience she remarked, "The fact that gay people like you is a plus; having people relate to you is a plus." She also commented on the importance of the responsibility of her image as projected to young black women.

With her that evening was a soon-to-be-heard new performer, Norma Jenkins. The name alone has that "star" ring. Ms. Jenkins has an album coming out on Buddha label, entitled, "Patience is a Virtue." She, like everyone else new, will receive close scrutiny, but she is being introduced by the reigning queen, Gloria Gaynor.

The spots came back on. The brass and drums positioned themselves. The room had an opening-night electricity. Gloria Gaynor came back, draped in layers of gold lame, and filled the room once again with the excitement, vitality, and precision that is all Gloria Gaynor.



Gloria at Together.



Sylvia Sydney and Gloria Gaynor.

Mollie Ockett

By David Holland

I have generally equated the theaters and cabarets tucked at the end of Warrenton Street with above-average entertainment. The Charles Playhouse and the Cabaret Down Under have brought us such fare as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and currently, *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*, as well as such perennial favorites as *The Little Prince*. But to every theorem there is an exception. There is one example that clearly undermines undisputed consistency of excellence. *Mollie Ockett* is that example.

The new Warrenton Street Playhouse is the bombardier to launch *Mollie Ockett*. I can excuse such opening foibles as garish interior design and poor acoustics but, coupled with equally offensive entertainment, this comes beyond my scope

of pardons! The play attempts, with a style reminiscent of *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, to bring us a musical history of this year's bi-centennial United States. It is accordingly billed as a "musical wink at history." I felt it was a technically embarrassing musical slap.

The singers, when audible, had those screechingly shrill or liltily stereotypical feminine voices that are common to high school productions. The "la-las" of the lyrics employed more ingenuity than the actual words.

The intermission was best used as a breather. I wanted to escape by this time, but I deemed it only fair to see it to its conclusion. The second half picked up considerably.

The numbers, their vitality and appeal, were a welcome relief. "Marathon," an historical capsule, and "One Meatball," were both intelligent and coyly humorous, respectfully. Karen McBride's song, "Keep My Love Alive," allowed the full range of her operatic voice to come through, but Karla Torkildsen's war ballad, "Why Johnny," was acoustically lost like a swiftly-fading memory. Perhaps it was my love of theatrical images that revelled at Roger Reed's scarf juggling.

The performance runs for four weeks at the new Warrenton Street Playhouse, but I am not hard pressed to say that their opener, *Mollie Ockett*, runs four weeks too long.

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Johnny Gibbs, #86976-132, Box 1000,
US Prison, Lewisberg, PA 17837.
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ers Coalition.)

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and concerned Catholics. Write Dignity,
755 Boylston St., Rm. 413, Boston, MA
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PenPals

I would deeply and greatly appreciate
hearing from anyone who has the time
and concern to spare. Please write
Charles Norman, P.O. Box 747, Starke,
Fla. 32091.

I am very lonely and plan to move to
Boston. I would like it if anyone could
help me in finding information on the
city. Write Robert Raines, P.O. Box
747, Starke, Fla. 32091.

I would like to correspond with some
gay people. Please write Shelley Etters,
P.O. Box 667, Bushnell, Fla. 33513.

I am a very lonely person who would
like to hear from anyone. I write songs,
poems, and I like motorcycles and
gays. I'd love hearing from you. William
Gustafson, P.O. Box 747, Starke, Fla.
32091.



25 year old inmate, seeks correspond-
ence with realistic, uninhibited and
concerned people. My interests are art,
poetry, chess and music. My astrologi-
cal sign is Virgo. Mr. Cecil Curry
133-391, P.O. Box 69, London, Ohio
43140.

I am 19 years old, brown hair, brown
eyes, I weigh 150 lbs. I like to corres-
pond with other gays, cause they are
very nice people. I am a very lonely
person with no one to write, and it
would be nice to hear from someone.
Jack Crane 039809 J-2-S-2, P.O. Box
747, Starke, Fla. 32091.

I am 23 years old, I have no family,
friends or relatives on the outside
world. I wish to correspond with
anyone who wishes to write to me.
Johnnie Jones A028029, P.O. Box 747,
21-12-14, Starke, Fla. 32091.

I am a male caucasian, 24 years old,
black hair, hazel eyes, 5'7" tall and
weigh approximately 135 lbs. I am
seeking correspondence with lonely
people throughout the nation. Roger
Branam, P.O. Box 221, Raiford, Fla.
32093, A.C. 11 A-031069.

Young and hot — 17 year old seeks cor-
respondence. Samuel Fuller 038754,
P.O. Box 747, Starke, Fla. 32091, 16-
1205.

I do not have companionship, family or
friends who are concerned about me. I
receive very little mail from the outside
and would like to correspond with
someone. Walter Anderson, P.O. Box
747, Starke, Fla. 32091. A-35950 W-1-
N-3.

I am 22 years old, height 5'10", weigh
140-145. I would truly like to correspond
with anyone who is interested in writing
me. Mr. Calvin Jackson, 041122, P.O.
Box 747, S-2-N-14, Starke, Fla. 32091.

Gay male would like to correspond with
anyone on the outside world. James
Sanders A035844, P.O. Box 747, Starke,
Fla. 32091. 21-3111.

I am in need of correspondence to
someone, being that I don't have a
family here in Florida. My height is
5'8", weigh 145 lbs. Bobby Alexander
036818, P-5-N-2, P.O. Box 747, Starke,
Fla. 32091.

I am 24 years old, I have brown hair, and
brown eyes. I am 5'10" tall and weigh
150 lbs. I would like someone to cor-
respond with in the free world. Jack
Green, 033706, P.O. Box 747, Starke,
Fla. 32091. S-3-S-12.

I have no family, I am desperately
seeking correspondence from anyone
who desires to write me. I have very
high hopes of a very close affectionate
and intimate relationship with someone
out there in the free world. Henry
Johnson, 036156 U-2-S-4, P.O. Box
747, Starke, Fla. 32091.

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Quick Gay Guide

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Access (Cambridge Hotline) 661-3900
Adolescent male rap session, 4-6 pm 227-8587
B'nai Haskalah (Gay Jewish group) 265-6409
Black Gay Men's Caucus, GCN, Box 9600
Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, P.O. Box 218, E. Cambridge, 02141 492-3433
Cambridge North/Brattle Gays Write c/o Gay Legislation 661-9362
Cambridge Women's Center 354-8807
Cambridgeport Gays, c/o GCN, Box 6500
Charles Street Meetinghouse 523-0368
Civil Liberties Union of Mass. 227-9469
Closet Space 523-1081
(WCAS 740m AM) (492-6540)
Daughters of Bilitis 262-1592
Dignity of Boston, c/o 1105 Boylston St., Boston
Elaine Noble (Rep.) 727-2584
Evangelicals Concerned 894-3970
Fag Rag 536-9826
Fenway Community Health Center 267-7573
Fengay, c/o Tom Nylund 267-1066
Focus, Women's Counseling, 186 1/2 Hampshire St., Cambridge 876-4488
Fort Hill Faggots for Freedom 440-8551 or 442-6029
Framingham Unicorn Society, P.O. Box 163, Framingham 01701
Gay Academic Union of New England P.O. Box 212, Boston 02101 266-2069
Gay Alert (For gay community emergency only) 523-0368 or 267-0764
Gay Community News 426-4469
Gay Hotline (3-12 pm, Mon.-Fri.) 426-9371
Gay Legislation '76, P.O. Box 8841 J.F.K. Station, Boston 02114 661-9362
Rep. Noble's Aides 727-2584
Gay Media Action, c/o GCN, Box 5000, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108 354-2079
Gay Men's Center, 36 Bromfield St. 338-7967
Gay Nurses Alliance, c/o GCN Box 251, Boston 02108
Gay People of UMass/Boston 287-1900 (ext. 2396)
Gay Recreational Activities Commit- tee (GRAC), c/o GCN Box 8000
Gay Way Radio (WBUR, 90.9 FM) 353-2790
Gay Youth Advocates, 70 Charles St. 227-8587
Gender Identity Service 864-8181
Golden Gays 482-8998
Good Gay Poets 536-9826
Homophile Community Health Svc. 542-5188

Harvard-Radcliffe GSA, 198 Memorial Hall, Cambridge 02138 495-1927
Integrity/Boston, P.O. Box 2582, 02208
Lesbian Therapy Research Project
Lesbian Liberation, c/o Women's Center 354-8807
Lesbian Mothers 354-8807
Massachusetts Feminist Federal Credit Union, 186 1/2 Hampshire St., Cambridge 661-0450
Metropolitan Community Church 523-7664
MIT Student Homophile League 253-5440
National Lawyers Guild, 595 Mass. Ave. 661-8898
National Organization for Women 267-6160
Northeastern Gay Student Org., c/o Student Activities Office, 255 Eil Ctr. 253-5440
Other Fund, Inc. (Gay United Fund), P.O. Box 1997, Boston 02105
Project Lambda 227-8587
Project Place 267-9150
Sexual Health Centers of N.E., Inc. 739 Boylston St., Boston 02116 266-3444
Fr. Paul Shanley (Exodus Center) 333-0146
Transvestites/Transgenderists: Frances Craig, P.O. Box 291, MIT Branch, Cambridge 02139
Transvestites/Transgenderists: Ariadne Kane, Box 161, Cambridge 02140
Tufts Gay Community, c/o Student Activities Office, Medford 02155 776-0921
Unitarian Universalist Office of Gay Concerns, 25 Beacon St., Boston 02108 742-2100
Women's Community Health in Cam- bridge 547-2302
WESTERN MASS. (Area Code 413)
Amherst Gay Hotline (Men & Women) 545-0154
Clark Gay Alliance, Box A-70, Clark U., Worcester 01610
Dignity/Springfield, P.O. Box 488, Forest Park Sta., Springfield 01108
Everywomen's Center, Amherst 545-0883
Gaybreak Radio (WMUA-FM, 91.9) 545-2876
Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst 545-3438
People's Gay Alliance, UMass/Amherst 545-0154
Southwest Women's Center 545-0626
Springfield Gay Alliance 583-3904
Valley Women's Center, Northampton 586-2011
EASTERN MASS (Area Code 617)
Alcoholics Together/Worcester 756-0730
Clark Gay People, Box A-70, Clark U., Worcester 01610 793-7287
Dignity/Merrimack Valley, P.O. Box 348, Lowell 01853

Everywoman's Center, Box 949, 14 Center St., Provincetown 02657 487-3075 or 487-3344
Gay Activists Alliance, c/o Postmaster, General Delivery, Provincetown or 487-3393 or 487-3234 or 487-3344
Gay Community Services, Box 815, Provincetown 02657
Gaypeople/Drop-In Center, Campus Center, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill 01830 374-0929
Haverhill, N.E.C.C. Gay Line, M. 8-10 am, T. 6-8 pm, W. 12-2 pm
Homophile Assistance League of Prov- incetown, Box 674, P-town 02657, 158 Commercial St. 487-9633
Homophile Union of Massachusetts, P.O. Box 262, Fitchburg, 01420
MCC/Merrimack Valley, Box 750, Haverhill, MA 01830 523-7664
MCC/Worcester 756-0730
New Bedford Women's Clinic 999-1070
Provincetown 24-Hour Drop-In Center 487-0387
Survival Crisis Line 471-7100
CONNECTICUT (Area Code 203)
"Come Out Tonight," Box WYBC/Yale Station, New Haven 06520
East Conn. Gay Alliance, Norwich 889-7530
George W. Henry Foundation, Hartford 522-2646
Gay Alliance at Yale, 2031 Yale St., New Haven 06520 436-8945
Gay Switchboard 522-5575
Hartford Gay Counseling 522-5575, 523-9837
Institute of Social Ethics/National Gay Archives, 1 Gold St., Suite 22B, Hartford 06103 547-1281
Kalos/Gay Liberation, Hartford 568-2656
MCC/Hartford 232-5110, 522-5575
The Church of the Eternal Flame Universal 527-2656
Wesleyan Gay Alliance, Box KKK, Wesleyan Sta., Middletown, CT 06457
RHODE ISLAND (Area Code 401)
Alcoholics Together, 290 Westminster St., Rm. 510, Providence
Dignity/Providence, Box 2231, Paw- tucket 02861
Gay Help Line 831-9491
Gay Women at Brown U., Providence 863-2189
Gay Women of Providence 831-5184
Integrity, Box 71, Annex Sta., Provi- dence 02801
MCC/Providence, 63 Chapin Ave.
MCC Innovative Ministry (terminally ill, aged and handicapped), Rev. Michael Nordstrum 941-8653
Providence Gay Group of AA 231-5853
MAINE (Area Code 207)
CMGA, Box 2242, Augusta 04330
Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St., University of Maine, Portland 04103 773-2981 (ext. 535)
Gay Support & Action, P.O. Box 110, Bangor 04401
Maine Freewoman's Herald, 193 Middle St., 3rd floor, Portland 04111 774-6071
Maine Gay Task Force, 193 Middle St., Portland 773-5530
Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, P.O. Box 4542, Portland 04112 773-5530
The Wilde-Steln Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono 04473

NEW HAMPSHIRE (Area Code 603)
Seacoast Area Gay Alliance 436-7196
Box 1424, Portsmouth, 03801 or 742-2947 or 431-4270
Women's Group, P.O. Box 137, Northwood 03261 (Do not use "gay" on mail to this group.)
VERMONT (Area Code 802)
Counseling for Gay Women & Men c/o Vermont Women's Health Center, 158 Bank St., Burlington 05401 863-1386
UVM Gay Student Union, Univ. of Vermont, Burlington, 05401
M,W 7-9pm 656-4173
Gay People at Middlebury, Middlebury College
Vermont Gay Women 862-7770, 863-3237
NEW YORK (CITY) (Area Code 212)
Dignity, P.O. Box 1554, NYC 10022
Gay Activists Alliance, P.O. Box 2, Village Sta., 10014 677-6090
Gay Media Coalition, c/o The Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St., NYC 10011 924-9434
Gay Men's Health Project, 74 Grove St., rm 2RW, NYC 10014 691-6969
Gay People at Columbia, Columbia U., NYC 10027 280-2574
Gay Switchboard 924-4036
Gay & Women's Alliance for Responsi- ble Media, 370 Lexington Ave., Suite 416, NYC
Lambda Legal Defense, P.O. Box 5448, Grand Central Station, NYC 10017 758-1905
Lesbian Feminists Liberation, c/o Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St. 691-5460
Lesbian Switchboard 741-2610
Mattachine Society, 59 Christopher St., NYC 10014 691-1066
MCC/New York, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th Ave.) Sunday worship 7 pm 691-7428
National Coalition of Gay Activists, P.O. Box A-711, Grand Central Sta., NYC 10017
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, NYC 741-1010
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 15 Christopher St. 255-8097
West Side Discussion Group, 37 Ninth Ave., NYC 675-0143
NEW YORK (STATE)
Capital District Gay Comm. Council, P.O. Box 131, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany 12210 (518) 462-6138
Dignity/Rochester, P.O. Box 8295, Rochester
Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley, Inc. 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester (716) 244-8640 14607 or 244-9030
Gay Brotherhood of Rochester, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-8640
Gay Citizens Alliance of Syracuse, Lambda Center, 503 South Geddes St., Syracuse, NY 472-3917
Gay Community Service Ctr., 1350 Main St., Buffalo 14209
Gay Liberation Front/U. of R., Todd Hall, River Campus, U. of R., Roches- ter, 14627 (716) 275-6181
Lesbian Resource Center (formerly GROW), 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-9030
Stonewall Society, Poughkeepsie (914) 471-8885

September 28 thru October 5



28 tues

Boston — Integrity, gay Episcopalians and friends invited to Eucharist and meeting, 7:45 pm, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

Boston — Gay Men's Center Speakers Forum, 7:30 pm, 36 Bromfield St., Lyn Rosen, managing editor of GCN, to speak.

Boston — D.O.B. rap for older women, 7:30 pm, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323. Also raffle drawing will be held.

29 wed

Boston — Gay Men's Center Workshop: Gays in Fiction, 36 Bromfield St., 7:30 pm. Also Meditation and Psychic Healing Workshop.

NYC — Gay Poetry, "Mouth of the Dragon," selected poets at the Glines, 260 W. Broadway at 9 pm. Donation \$1.



30 thurs

Boston — Women's Community Health planning meeting for Fourth Annual Women's Health Weekend, at Children's Daycare Center, 245 Columbia St., Cambridge, at 7 pm. Call W.C.H. 547-2302.

Boston — Gay Men's Center, Gay Topics Rap, 36 Bromfield St., at 8:30 pm.

1 fri

Boston — Conference on E.R.A. at B.U. Hayden Hall 7:30 pm. Elaine Noble, Brenda Eickleberger, others, speaking.

2 sat

Boston — Conference on ERA at Boston University, CLA Building; register 9-10 am, continuous workshops program.

Portsmouth, NH — Seacoast Area Gay Alliance BYOB Get-together for gay women and men, for info call Barbara, 742-2947 or Wayne, 436-7196.

3 sun

Cambridge, MA — Filmwomen of Boston presents "Women and Work," a series of films, today three films: *Union Maids*, 9 to 5, and *A Woman's Place is in the House: A Portrait of Elaine Noble*, 7:30 and 9:30. Harvard Science Center Hall C, 1 Oxford St.

Provincetown, MA — Cape Cod Women's Liberation holds weekly feminist discussions at Drop-In Center, 6 Gosnold St., 8-10 pm. This week: "Anger."

Portsmouth, NH — MCC worship service, 7 pm, South Church, 292 State St., coffee hour will follow.

5 tues

Boston — D.O.B. rap on "Women and Therapy," 7:30 pm, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.

NYC — West Side Discussion Group, 37 Ninth Ave. at 14th St., 8 pm, "Gay Periodicals," features representatives from "Gay Scene" and "Michael's Thing." \$2 donation asked.



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